83. Ar-Ra'uf
(The Compassionate)

"Divine compassion surrounds you more
completely than the air you breathe.
You exist within it even when you are unaware
of its presence."

- Abdul Qadir al-Jilani (1077-1166 CE)
Source: "Futuh al-Ghayb"
(Revelations of the Unseen)

The entire creation of Allah will become affectionate towards the person who recites this Beautiful Name of Allah excessively.

To subdue ones anger, recjte Salawaat (Durood) 10 times, then this Beautiful Name 10 times - Al Hisnul Hasin

BI'ISMIHI TA'AALA

Asmaa ul Husna

—

The Most Beautiful Names of Allah ﷻ

Ml.Moosa Kajee

AR- RAOOF ﷻ (THE EXTREMELY COMPASSIONATE ﷻ)

Some have said that 'ra'fat' and 'rahmah' (mercy) are the same. Others have mentioned a difference between the two. They say that 'ra'fat' is a quality after 'rahmah.' If any person is merciful, it is said, فُلَانٌ رَحِيْمٌ (He is called Raheem). When the mercy becomes intense, then he can be referred to as Raoof.

Ar-Raoof ﷻ is that Being who acts very kindly to His servants, and makes matters easy for them, since He does not burden them with that which they cannot manage to bear. He ﷻ has made them liable for that which is far less than that which they can bear.

The quality of 'ra'fat' is specific to Allaah ﷻ, which He manifests in different ways:

1.) Amongst His acts of kindness upon us is that He ﷻ does not destroy any action of obedience which His servant carries out, thereby not rewarding them for it. He ﷻ does not repay goodness with evil. Allaah ﷻ states, "And Allaah ﷻ is not such that He will destroy your eemaan. Verily Allaah ﷻ is Extremely Compassionate, Most Merciful with people." (Baqarah) He ﷻ has promised countless rewards and favours for abstaining from sins and practising noble actions, even though it was the duty and responsibility of the servant, who had to fulfil his duties, even in the event of not receiving anything. However Ar-Raoof ﷻ has promised to grant great rewards.

2.) Another great act of kindness is that He ﷻ has warned us of (the wrath of) His Being. He ﷻ has alerted us of His punishment and chastisement, and prohibited us from sinning, so that we can prepare to meet Him and be saved from His anger and displeasure before the Day of Judgement. Allaah ﷻ states, "On the day every soul shall find present all the good which it had done, as well as the evil it had committed. It

will wish that it will be greatly distanced from that evil. Allaah ﷻ warns you of Himself. Allaah ﷻ is compassionate to His servants." (Al-Imraan)

Allaah ﷻ sent down ambiyaa ﷺ so that people could learn how to achieve success and save themselves from His anger. He ﷻ sent down divine scriptures, in which He explained His commandments, so that the ambiyaa ﷺ could extract people from the darkness of polytheism and ignorance, and invite them to the illumination of guidance and tawheed. Allaah ﷻ states, "It is He who reveals upon His servants clear verses so that He may take them out from darkness's into light. Verily Allaah is Extremely Compassionate, Most Merciful with you." (Hadeed)

3.) Amongst His favours and acts of kindness is that He accepts the repentance of those who seek repentance. He does not rebuff from His door the repentant sinners, no matter how grave their sins are. Allaah ﷻ states, "Then Allaah ﷻ turned towards them. Without doubt, He is Most Compassionate and Most Merciful." (Tawbah)

4.) Due to His compassion, He ﷻ has made subservient whatever is in the heavens and on the earth for the benefit of man. He ﷻ has created animals so that man can mount their backs and traverse great distances with his provisions and goods. If it was not for these animals, man would have been plunged into great difficulties. Allaah ﷻ states, "And they carry your heavy goods to those lands which you would not have reached except with great difficulty. Verily Your Sustainer is Most Compassionate, Most Merciful." (Nahl)

5.a) Ar-Raoof ﷻ showers torrents of compassion upon man. Ar-Rauf ﷻ has granted human beings in different ways with such specialities which are not to be found in the other creation, from amongst others, a beautiful structure, composed physical form, stable temperament, and moderate height. The rest of creation have not been blessed with the bounties granted to man. Besides these, man has been especially

endowed with intellect and understanding, by means of which he is able to utilize all the different things in the universe. Allaah ﷻ has granted man the power to prepare such inventions and designs which assists him in his habitation, movements, eating, and dressing.

5.b) The ability of speech, understanding and explaining to others has been gifted to man, to the exclusion of others. By means of indications, one is able to inform others of the thoughts in his heart. By writing and other means of communication, man is able to convey the message to others. This is solely the privilege granted to man.

5.c) Some scholars have stated that eating with one's fingers is also a quality which is unique to man. Majority of animals eat directly with their mouths.

5.d) It is only man who mixes different types of food together, making it more tasty and beneficial. All the remainder of creation eat plain food. Some eat raw meat, some eat grass, whilst others eat fruit, etc. In short, all eat simple foods. It is only human beings who prepare compound foods.

5.e) The greatest virtue of man is his intellect by which he can recognize his Master and Creator, fulfil those duties which will please Him, and abstain from those actions which will displease Him. Animals possess desires and passion, but lack intellect. Angels posssess intellect, but do not possess desires and passion. Both these qualities are combined in man; intellect as well as carnal desires. For this reason, when man is able to dominate and subdue his desires by means of his intellect, and save himself from doing those actions which are displeasing to Allaah ﷻ, then his status exceeds that of many amongst the angels.

5.f) It is solely the compassion and kindness of Ar-Raoof ﷻ that He ﷻ has placed within man the speciality of forgetfulness. A person's close family member passes away, with whom one enjoyed such closeness

that it is normally difficult to even separate them. A few days after the news of his demise, this same family member forgets the deceased. If it was not so, then it would not be possible to do any work in this world. Man would forever remain in stress and worry. Look at the mercy and compassion of Ar-Raoof ﷻ. It is solely due to His kindness that He makes man forget gigantic sorrows and worries.

5.g.) Another manifestation of the compassion and kindness of Ar-Raoof ﷻ is that whenever He has created sickness, He ﷻ has created the medication. Wherever people reside, Allaah ﷻ creates the foodstuff and medication according to the temperament of those people.

5.h) He ﷻ has sent down for us fine cloth to cover our bodies, as well as armour which is utilized at times of warfare. There is one other type of clothing which humans, animals, birds and all reptiles have been granted, without which they would not have been able to survive for even a minute. A living being is able to survive without water and food for some time, but this clothing is such that without it, life is impossible. Ar-Raoof ﷻ, through His compassion and mercy, has granted every living being such clothing which is appropriate for its environment and atmosphere, and which protects it from seasonal changes. This clothing is referred to as 'skin' which not only protects one from harmful things, but is a means of beautification.

5.i) Ar-Raoof ﷻ has being exceptionally kind to us by explaining to us an extremely easy method of protecting ourselves from an enemy like Shaytaan and how to disgrace and humiliate him. The most effective method of protecting oneself is through ta'awwudh, which means to recite اعُوْذُ بِاللّٰهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطٰنِ الرَّجِيْمِ. One should recite this when walking, sitting, lying down, in short, at all times.